

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

H-03 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SPC-03

OC-06 NEA-10 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-20 USIE-00 USSS-00

SY-10 FAA-00 AF-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /139 W

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O R 181826Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4151

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSULMARSEILLES

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 6558

UNCLAS PARIS 27234

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR FRANCE HIJACKING

REF: PARIS 27169

1. HIJACKER OF AIR FRANCE BOEING 727 HAS DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE WITH POLICE WHO BOARDED AIRCARFT AT MARSEILLES.

SHE WAS ARMED WITH 22 CALIBER RIFLE (SIC) AND OPENED FIRE ON
POLICE, WHO RETURNED FIRE AND HIT HER IN HEAD AND CHEST.
HOSTAGES WERE APPARENTLY UNHARMED.

2. HIJACKER WAS FRENCH NATIONAL, BORN DANIELLE FRANCOISE BATISSE
IN 1938. AFP HAS JUST ANNOUNCED CONFIRMATION FROM OFFICIAL SOURCE OF
WHAT
WE HAD HEARD EARLIER FROM AIR FRANCE, NAMELY, THAT SHE WAS WIFE OF
GEORGES CRAVENNE, DESCRIBED AS PROMINENT PARISIAN WHO HEAD
ADVERTISING FIRM ON CHAMPS-ELYSEES.
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3. HIJACKER WAS WELL DRESSED AND TRAVELED ON FIRST CLASS TICKET. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED HOW SHE CONCEALED WEAPON WHEN BORDING PLANE. HOWEVER, FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE INFORMED US AND SUBSEQUENTLY ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PRE-DEPARTURE SECURITY SCREENING OF PASSENGERS ON THAT FLIGHT, IN LINE WITH PRACTICE OF NOT REQUIRING SUCH SCREENING ON MOST FRENCH DOMESTIC FLIGHTS.

4. FRENCH AUTHORITIES TELL US ALSO THAT THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN NO DIRECT POLITICAL MOTIVATION BEHIND HIJACKING ATTEMPT NOTWITHSTANDING EVIDENCE OF SOME "ANTI-.MILITARIST AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT" BIAS ON PART OF HIJACKER. RATHER THESE AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THAT IT WAS THE WORK OF A DERANGED MIND. (ONE OF HIJACKER'S DEMANDS WAS THAT ALL ROAD TRAFFIC IN FRANCE BE HALTED FOR 24 HOURS.) UPI REPORTS THAT SHE CLAIMED TO BE MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION AIMED AT PROMOTING ARAB-ISRAELI RAPPROCHEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND AIR FRANCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT SHE ASKED PILOT TO FLY TO CAIRO BEFORE HE LANDED AT MARSEILLES, WHICH PROMPTS NEWS AGENCIES TO SPECULATE THAT SHE MAY HAVE THOUGHT SHE WAS ABOARD PARIS-NICE-TEL AVIV FLIGHT WHICH HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.IRWIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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